

Survey Section

Preparing Specimens for ID

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Introduction

This section contains instructions for preparing and sending gypsy moth specimens.



If no one in a work station has authority to identify gypsy moth, the specimens must be sent to the Area Identifier for confirmation.

Mailing Instructions for Specimens

Materials Needed

To preserve, record, and distribute specimens, have the following materials readily available:

- Approved killing agents
- **♦** Pill boxes
- ◆ ARS-748 (Identification Request) on **page 6-3** or PPQ Form 391 (Specimens for Determination) on **page 6-4**
- Shipping boxes or mailing tubes (envelopes)
- Vials for instars in ethyl alcohol

The ARS-748 is available online at the following Website:

http://www.sel.barc.usda.gov/selhome/requests.htm

Adults from Traps

Use the following procedure when a suspected gypsy moth is found in a delta or a milk-carton trap:

- 1. Remove the whole trap without disturbing the moth.
- 2. Disassemble the trap and cut out the trap section containing the suspected gypsy moth.
- 3. Place the cut-out trap section in a pill box.
- 4. Send the pill box and a completed PPQ Form 391 (Specimens for Determination) to the appropriate Area Identifier.

As an alternative, replace the trap; send the assembled trap with the specimen and a completed Form ARS-798 (Identification Request) or PPQ Form 391 (Specimens for Determination) to the appropriate Area Identifier.

All Other Life Stages

- 1. If the larvae are to be sent, boil the larvae in water before placing them in 70% ethyl alcohol. If pupae or egg masses are to be sent, place directly in 70% ethyl alcohol without boiling.
- 2. Using a soft lead pencil, write the collection number on bond paper and place the marked paper in the vial with the specimen.
- 3. Send each vial containing specimens with a completed PPQ Form 391 (Specimens for Determination) or Form ARS-798 (Identification Request) to the Area Identifier.

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FIGURE 6-1: ARS-748 (Identification Request)

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FIGURE 6-2: PPQ Form 391 (Specimens for Determination)

Completing PPQ Form 391, Specimens for Determination

Information on how to complete each block follows:

Block 1 Fill in a unique identification number beginning with the last two

digits of the year, followed by the collector's initial, followed by the

collector's number.

For example, 01-JD-001

(last two digits of 2001, collector John Doe, collector no.001).

Blocks 2-14 Fill in as appropriate.

Block 15 Indicate number of specimens submitted and their condition when

collected (alive or dead) under the appropriate life stage heading.

Block 16 Enter any of the following: pheromone trap, larval trap, or visual

search.

Block 17 If sampling involved trapping, list the specific type of trap and lure

used. For example: Delta Trap, Disparlure.

Block 18 Fill in.

Blocks 19-21 Leave blank.

Block 22 Fill in the type of survey conducted: Detection, Delimiting, Egg-mass,

Larval Trapping. Also, if this specimen is a New County Record or a New State Record, write the word "URGENT" and handle as directed in

M390.516.

Block 23 Enter tentative identification for gypsy moth: *Lymantria dispar*.

Block 24 Leave blank.

Distributing the PPQ Form 391

Distribute the PPQ Form 391 as follows:

- 1. Send the original and four copies with the sample to the Area Identifier.
- 2. Retain the yellow copy in the files of the work station.